

**Title:** Dr. E.C. Tolbert Collection

**Dates:** 1900-1910; 1920s; 1940s-1950s; 1975; 1986; 2005-2006

**Creator:** Dr. E.C. Tolbert

**Summary/ Abstract:** The Dr. E.C. Tolbert Collection is comprised of an assortment of records kept by Dr. Tolbert concerning several individuals and families who lived in Rutherford County, as well as Rutherford County Historical Society documents and papers concerning local communities. It includes records from the McKnight family, an album of Mollie Quarles, correspondence between Charley Duggins and Mamie Clair Tilford, correspondence from Frank B. Kellogg to Taylor's Chapel Baptist Church, several photographs, newspaper clippings from the Daily News Journal, a booklet about Mt. Juliet in the 1940s and 1950s, a book of Eagleville history, and the Stones River Turnpike Logbook.

**Quantity/ Physical Description:** 1 linear foot

**Language(s):** English

**Repository:** The Rutherford County Archives, 435 Rice Street, Murfreesboro, Tennessee 37130. (615) 867-4609

**Restrictions on Access:** None

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**Preferred Citation:** (Box number, Folder) Dr. Tolbert Collection, Rutherford County Archives, Murfreesboro, Tennessee.

**Acquisition:** Donated by Dr. Tolbert, June 5, 2012.

**Processed by:** Heather M. Adkins and Andrew W. McMahan

**Arrangement:** This collection is arranged in ten series: **McKnight Family Documents, Correspondence, Rutherford County History, Wilson County History, Huddleston Genealogy, Newspaper Clippings, Dr. E. C. Tolbert Papers, Friends of the Archives Papers, The Cumberland and Stones River Turnpike Logbook, and Photographs.** The Correspondence series is further divided into three subseries: Charley Duggins and Mamie Claire Tilford; Frank Kellogg; Mollie Quarls autograph album. The photograph series is stored with the larger Rutherford County photograph collection, not with the Dr. Tolbert Collection. The microfilm roll copy of the Stones River Turnpike Logbook is in the Reading Room.

**Biographical Note:**

Dr. E.C. Tolbert, collection donor, is a retired Murfreesboro physician and influential member Rutherford County Historical Society.

The collection consists of numerous records from the McKnight family of Murfreesboro. The McKnights were influential among business and political circles. Among the records are campaign cards distributed by Carter McKnight when he ran as a Democratic candidate for County Court Clerk in Rutherford County in 1958. According to the 1920 U.S. Census, Carter was born about 1899 to farmers Edd and Mary L. McKnight. His siblings were Bertha, a dress maker, and Kate, a book keeper. According to the 1940 U.S. Census, Carter was a milk truck driver and farmer. Living with him at the time of the 1940 U.S. Census was his wife Mary, and daughters Mary Carter and Sue. Also included are three teaching certificates [1880s] for John N. McKnight, who taught in public elementary schools. Mentioned among the records are [presumably Carter's sister] Kate McKnight and Moses McKnight, whose names are on numerous business receipts and transactions.

The McKnight Family Documents consist of three subseries. Teaching Certificates/School Documents consists of John N. McKnight's certificates. Receipts/Invoices contains business and tax receipts of the McKnight family. Political Documents consists of Carter McKnight's campaign cards.

Correspondence has three subseries, the first of which is letters between Mamie Claire Tilford and Charley Duggin in the early 1920s. Mamie Claire Tilford was a resident of Murfreesboro born about 1905 to farmers Wells F. and Lillie H. Tilford according to the 1920 U.S. Census. Charley Duggin [Charlie in the 1920 Census] was also a resident of Murfreesboro, born about 1901 to farmers Richard and Martha Duggin. He worked as a farm labor according to the 1920 Census. Charley and Mamie were pen pals from about 1920 to 1924. They discussed things like the influenza epidemic, school, and work.

The second subseries of correspondence includes one letter from Frank Kellogg to Taylor's Chapel Baptist Church. Taylor's Chapel is located on Halls Hill Pike in Murfreesboro. The letter expresses Kellogg's resignation from a post at the Church.

The Cumberland and Stones River Turnpike series contains two subseries. The first is Notes, which consists of information compiled about the logbook by TSLA. The second subseries is Logbook, which consists of the original logbook. There is also a copy of the logbook on microfilm stored in the Reading Room.

### **Scope and Content:**

The Dr. E.C. Tolbert collection consists of transaction records, correspondence, family collections, photographs, genealogical research, and local history research. Records date between 1871 and 2006, most of which are from the early and mid Twentieth century. Topics covered include Rutherford County businesses and schools, an influenza epidemic, familial and courting relationships, and religion.

## **Series I: McKnight Family Documents:**

Approximately 35 documents, including various teacher's certificates, campaign cards, and business receipts.

### **Subseries I: Teaching Certificates/School Documents**

Two teaching certificates dated 1880 and 1882 and one contract between the Directors of School District 17 and John McKnight dated 1880.

### **Subseries II: Receipts/Invoices**

Approximately 25 documents including business receipts, tax receipts, and invoices ranging from 1871-1957.

### **Subseries III: Political Documents**

Five of Carter McKnight's campaign cards dated 1958.

## **Series II: Correspondence**

Various letters among individuals in Rutherford County, TN. Dates include: 1896; 1902; 1920s; 1941; 1947. Arranged in three subseries:

### **Subseries I: Charley Duggins and Mamie Claire Tilford**

1920 and 1924. Four letters to Charley Duggins from Mamie Claire Tilford. Two letters to Mamie Clair Tilford from Charley Duggins. Topics include: the influenza epidemic; Halls Hill School; proper courtship practices; cotton crops; and social events.

### **Subseries II: Frank Kellogg to Taylor's Chapel Baptist Church, Murfreesboro, TN**

Dated April 6, 1947. Letter from Frank B. Kellogg to Taylor's Chapel Baptist Church explaining his resignation from his post at the church.

### **Subseries III: Mollie Quarls autograph album**

Bulk date 1896, 1902, and 1941; letters from friends and family members from various cities in Tennessee and Kentucky expressing condolence and encouragement. Contains references to the death of Hattie Quarls Swann. Extent 7" x 9" x 1".

## **Series III: Rutherford County History**

Copies of 1914 Sanborn maps of Murfreesboro and a notebook entitled "Eagleville History."

#### **Series IV: Wilson County History**

A booklet entitled *Tracks Through Mt. Juliet: Life in Mt. Juliet in 1940s and 50s* by Lenore Tomlinson Stringer.

#### **Series V: Huddleston Genealogy**

Description of a wedding between Henry Huddleston and America Blackman. A scanned copy of photograph owned by Bill Huddleston entitled "Womans Adult Wesley Bible Class." Huddleston family tree.

#### **Series VI: Newspaper Clippings**

Clipping from the Daily News Journal containing pictures of the Rutherford County Nursing Home and the remnants of the "old poor house" dated 1975.

#### **Series VII: Dr. E. C. Tolbert Papers**

An email from Nancy R. Allen pertaining to the old Health Department building dated October 13, 2005 and an undated poem entitled "The Old House on the Hill" by Alice Rooker Pierce.

#### **Series VIII: Friends of the Archives Papers**

Record of the Friends of the Archives first meeting, April 9, 2006.

#### **Series IX: The Cumberland and Stones River Turnpike Logbook**

##### **Subseries I: Notes**

Information about the logbook compiled by TSLA.

##### **Subseries II: Logbook**

Original logbook and a copy on microfilm. The logbook is located in Box 2 and the microfilm copy is stored in the Reading Room.

#### **Series X: Photographs**

Five photographs. Three of Ransom School, a brick structure with white gable tin roof (scanned copies). One of a woman in black standing next to a horse and two-wheel buggy with canopy; stamped on back "Finished by Leo Ferrell, Murfreesboro, Tenn." (extent 3.25" x 3.25"). One of a man in military uniform (Leon Hibeck) standing next to a woman wearing sweater and pleated skirt (extent 2.5" x 4.25"). One portrait of a woman in a dress (extent 5"x7").

**Associated Materials:** See *Cumberland and Stones River Turnpike Toll Collections and Notes & Logbook, 1858-1901* in Miscellaneous Microfilm Collection

**Related Collections:** None.

**Persons:**

Carter McKnight  
Kate McKnight  
J. N. McKnight  
Charley Duggins  
Mamie Claire Tilford  
Frank Kellogg  
Mollie Quarls  
Henry Huddleston  
America Blackman  
Dr. E. C. Tolbert  
Ada Brown Bell

**Places:** Rutherford County, Tennessee; Eagleville, Tennessee; Murfreesboro, Tennessee; Mt. Juliet, Tennessee

**Subjects (General):**

Taylor's Chapel Baptist Church –Murfreesboro, TN  
1920s Influenza Epidemic  
Farming  
Halls Hill School – Murfreesboro, TN  
World War II  
Rutherford County Nursing Home  
Poor Farm

**Materials Types:**

Documents; Photographs; Album

**Collections Inventory:**

Box	Folder	Series	Subseries	Description of Contents
1	1	McKnight Family Documents	Teaching Certificates/ School Documents	Teaching Certificates & School Documents, 1880-1882
1	2	McKnight Family Documents	Receipts/Invoices	Approximately 25 business and tax receipts ranging from 1871 to 1957.
1	3	McKnight Family Documents	Political Documents	Five of Carter McKnight's 1958 campaign cards.
1	4	Correspondence	Charley	1920 and 1924. Four letters to Charley Duggins

			Duggins & Mamie Claire Tilford	from Mamie Claire Tilford. Two letters to Mamie Clair Tilford from Charley Duggins. Topics include: the influenza epidemic; Halls Hill School; proper courtship practices; cotton crops; and social events.
1	5	Correspondence	Frank Kellogg	Dated April 6, 1947. Letter from Frank B. Kellogg to Taylor's Chapel Baptist Church explaining his resignation from his post at the church
1	6	Correspondence	Mollie Quarls autograph album	Bulk date 1896, 1902, and 1941; letters from friends and family members from various cities in Tennessee and Kentucky expressing condolence and encouragement. Contains references to the death of Hattie Quarls Swann. Extent 7" x 9" x 1".
1	7	Rutherford County History		Two copies of 1914 Sanborn maps of Murfreesboro and a notebook entitle "Eagleville History."
1	8	Wilson County History		A booklet entitled <i>Tracks Through Mt. Juliet: Life in Mt Juliet in the 1940s and '50s</i> by Lenore Tomlinson Stringer.
1	9	Huddleston Genealogy		Description of a wedding between Henry Huddleston and America Blackman. A scanned copy of photograph owned by Bill Huddleston entitled "Womans Adult Wesley Bible Class." Huddleston family tree.
1	10	Newspaper Clippings		Clippings from the Daily News Journal with photographs of the Rutherford County Nursing Home and the old poor house.
1	11	Dr. E. C. Tolbert Papers		An email from Nancy R. Allen pertaining to the old Health Department building dated October 13, 2005 and an undated poem entitled "The Old House on the Hill" by Alice Rooker Pierce.
1	12	Friends of the Archives Papers		Record of the Friends of the Archives first meeting, April 9, 2006.
1	13	The Cumberland and Stone River Turnpike Logbook	Notes	Information about the logbook compiled by TSLA.
2		The Cumberland and Stones River Turnpike Logbook	Logbook	The Cumberland and Stones River Turnpike Logbook.

3	ECT004	Photographs		Man in Uniform
3	ECT005	Photographs		Horse and Buggy
4	ECTC00 16	Photographs		Ada Brown Bell

\*\*Boxes 3 and 4 Photographs in photograph room; Boxes 1 and 2 in stacks